



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Prineville District Office
3050 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2800 (ORP060)
OR-065784

Dear Reader:

Attached is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the West Butte Wind Power Right of Way. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the DEIS to address the effects of allowing West Butte Wind Power LLC (the Applicant) to improve or construct, and operate, an access roadway and transmission line across BLM managed public land. This right of way (ROW) would be part of the Applicant's proposal (the Proposed Action) to construct, operate, and maintain a wind generation facility and associated facilities on private lands in Deschutes and Crook counties, Oregon. The DEIS also analyzes an alternative where the transmission line would cross public land, but the access road would be on private land to the north.

The Project Area is located about 32 miles east of the city of Bend and 30 miles south of the city of Prineville.

The 45 day comment period begins with publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register, which is expected to occur on April 2, 2010. The comment period is expected to close May 17, 2010. Changes in these dates will be published on the website listed below. The purpose of the comment period is to ensure the Final EIS includes an appropriate range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action, and that the analysis of effects is complete, appropriately presenting and interpreting the available published information.

You may submit written comments on the DEIS by hand delivery, U.S. postal mail, facsimile, and electronic mail (email). Only comments received during the 45-day period following publication of the NOA will be considered prior to a decision on the proposed action. Only parties who offer comment during this period will be granted the right to appeal the decision.

Copies by postal mail should be sent to Project Manager, West Butte Wind ROW DEIS, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand delivery of written comments to the same address may occur between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Facsimiles may be sent to (541) 416-6798, and email to or_west_butte_eis@blm.gov. Envelopes and the subject line of email and facsimiles should be identified as "West Butte Wind ROW DEIS".

Comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to line numbers, pages, and/or chapters of the DEIS. Comments may address the adequacy of specific analyses in the DEIS and the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document (refer to CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1503.3).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record on this DEIS and are available for public inspection. Comments, including names and addresses, may be published as part of the Final EIS. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request that submissions be withheld from the public record by showing how the FOIA permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect confidential business information. The requester will be informed of the BLM decision regarding the request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the comments will be returned to the requester, and the requester will be notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Anonymous comments do not create standing or a record of participation. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives, or officials of organizations or business, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information on this DEIS please contact one of the following employees at the Prineville District Office email or_west_butte_eis@blm.gov or phone (541) 416-6700: Steve Storo, Project Lead; Teal Purrington, Environmental Coordinator; Christina Lilienthal, Public Affairs Specialist; or Steve Robertson, Associate District Manager.

Thank you for your interest in public land management. We look forward to receiving your comments on the DEIS.

Sincerely,


or Deborah Henderson-Norton
District Manager